

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the "Abstract" section with the following abstract which avoids legal phraseology:

Q1 A method for measuring bone age that includes: transmitting acoustic energy into an ossification-actuated skeletal structure of the body of a subject so that the acoustic energy propagates substantially transverse to the structure; receiving an acoustic signal from the ossification-actuated skeletal structure which is responsive to the transmitted acoustic energy; analyzing the acoustic signal to determine at least one effect of the structure on the signal; and estimating the age of the structure from the determined effect.

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